

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 9, 10, 12 and 13 have been amended. Claims 8 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-15 and 17-24 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamayama (JP 06-068574) (hereinafter "Tamayama") in view of Omori et al. (US 6,246,654) (hereinafter "Omori").

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 11 and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 13 and 14 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 15 and 17-24 have been allowed and that claims 11 and 12 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 11 has been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is allowable in its present condition in view of the foregoing amendments.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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